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VICTORY AND INDEPENDENCE

O Thou, that sendest out the man
To rule by land and sea,
Strong mother of a Lion-line,
Be proud of those strong sons of thine
Who wrench'd their rights from thee!

Alfred Tennyson.



Washington's headquarters at
Valley Forge.

The log ell on the right has been built recently, a facsimile of the original built for Washington. The house is used as a museum.

105. Valley Forge.—We left Washington in Valley Forge, where he quartered his troops during the winter of 1777-78. And a trying winter it was both for the army and for Washington himself. Congress had failed to provide tents, food, and clothing for the army, and the suffering of the men was heartrending. "The unfortunate soldiers,"

said Lafayette, a young nobleman who had come over from France and had offered his services to the American army, "were in want of everything; they had neither coats, hats, shirts, nor shoes." The winter at Valley Forge was a trying one to Washington personally, because during that winter a plot was formed to overthrow him as commander-in-chief and to raise Gates, the hero of Saratoga, to his place. Nothing came of the plot, but it grieved Washington deeply to learn that his own officers were planning for his downfall.

The winter at Valley Forge was marked by one event, at least, that proved to be of great advantage to the American army. This was the coming of Baron Steuben. This German soldier saw that the ragged regiments of the Americans needed training and drilling. So he turned his camp into a military school, and before the winter was over had an army that was well organized and well disciplined.